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### And She Was

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## Book Review

### And She Was

#### Author

Jessica Verdi

#### Illustrator

#### Reviewer

Meagan Andrus

#### Rating

Outstanding

#### Level

Young Adult

#### Pages

353

#### Year

2018

#### Publisher

Point

#### ISBN

9781338150537

Eighteen-year-old Dara has just graduated high school and wants her mother's support for her to go pro in the tennis world. While searching for some legal documents, Dara discovers a major secret: her mother is actually her biological father, and transitioned when Dara was very young. Without waiting for a bigger explanation, Dara leaves to find some answers about her extended family. Along the way, her mother writes her e-mails to explain what she went through growing up and why she did what she did. Dara is at first happy with her new extended family but later realizes that large houses and personal chefs do not necessitate happy, supportive families. In the end, Dara is able to understand her mother on a deeper level than she ever has before and learn what being a family really means.

This book is excellent for its engaging storyline and interesting characters, but what makes this book stand out is the way it treats the issue of having a transgender parent, as well as the transgender topic in general. Every teen, young adult, and older adult should read this book in order to better understand what it's like for some transgender people. The situations in this book are very specific to that character, but the feelings and trials and struggles are commonly shared by the transgender community. This book will open the reader's eyes to this topic and its surrounding issues. Overall, this book is an emotional and fun read, and is one of few books that will leave the reader feeling changed in some way.

\*Contains severe language, moderate sexual content, and mild violence. (Trigger warnings: domestic abuse, mental illness, suicide.)